

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 18, 2006

The Honorable William Frist, M.D.
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

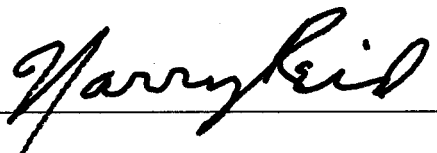

Dear Dr. Frist:



Earlier today, the Senate approved the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810) – an important step toward enacting legislation that can bring hope to millions of Americans. As you know, this important legislation would end the restrictions that have kept stem cell research from fulfilling its potential to save lives and alleviate suffering.

We are pleased that you supported this important legislation and know that you recognize the enormous potential of this research for discovering new cures and therapies for diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's disease and spinal cord injuries. However, we are deeply disappointed by the prospect that the President will veto this landmark legislation and ask that you urge the President to reconsider this position. If the President fails to do so, the only chance for overriding this veto rests with you and the Republican caucuses in the House and the Senate. Since the House will act first on any Presidential veto, we ask that you immediately meet with Speaker Hastert and key members of the House Republican caucus to impress upon them the importance of H.R. 810 and the need to secure the necessary votes from House Republican members to override that veto. At the same time, we hope that you will exercise your leadership to secure the necessary votes from Senate Republicans to override a veto should the Senate be given an opportunity to do so.

Millions of patients and their families across the nation cannot afford to wait any longer for the enactment of this urgently needed legislation. We are counting on your leadership to help ensure that this legislation becomes law so that we may finally clear the way for research that could lead to treatments and cures for so many debilitating disease and conditions.

Sincerely,

Tom Harkin

Dianne Feinstein

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Patrick Leahy

Patty Murray

Jim Jeffords

Ed Johnson

Herb Kohl

Byron D. Dorgan

Tom Lantos

P.D. Kennedy

Tom F. Kelly

Chris Dodd

Carl Levin

Mark Dayton

Barbara Boxer

Daniel K. Akaka

Frank R. Lautenberg

Paul Sarbanes

Mike Feingold

Robert A. Nicholas

Jim Lick

Bill Nelson

Alvin

Alvin

Ken Salazar

Em Bayh

Alvin

Robert M. Mendenhall

Carl De

Maria C. C. C.

Monty G. G.

Jack Seal

Max Baucus

Blanche L. Lincoln

Mark Pryor

Jay Byrnes